

In re Application of: Brackett N. L., et al.

Confirmation No: 6890

Application No.: 10/748,637

Examiner: SCHUBERG, L. J.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of increasing motility of sperm, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing from [[a]] an infertile male subject having a spinal cord injury a biological sample comprising sperm and at least one cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF_a, IL1_B, and IL6; and

b) contacting the biological sample in vitro with an agent that inactivates or reduces the biological activity of the at least one cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF_a, IL1_B, and IL6 under conditions that result in increased sperm motility, wherein the sperm having increased motility can be used to impregnate a female subject and

increasing motility of sperm.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the male subject has condition is leukocytospermia.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the biological sample comprises a fluid produced by the male reproductive tract.

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Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample comprises semen.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an antibody that specifically binds to the at least one cytokine.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the at least one cytokine comprises TNF α .

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the at least one cytokine comprises IL1 β .

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the at least one cytokine comprises IL6.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an antibody that specifically binds to a receptor for the at least one cytokine, ~~receptor~~ the receptor selected from the group consisting of TNF α receptor, IL1 β receptor, and IL6 receptor.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the ~~at least one cytokine~~ receptor comprises a TNF α receptor.

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Claim 14 (Currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the ~~at least one cytokine~~ receptor comprises an IL1 β receptor.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the ~~at least one cytokine~~ receptor comprises an IL6 receptor.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is a soluble cytokine receptor that specifically binds to the at least one cytokine.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor comprises a soluble TNF α receptor.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor comprises a soluble IL1 β receptor.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor comprises a soluble IL6 receptor.